

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Claims 1-16 (Canceled)**

**Claim 17 (New)**      Apparatus for breaking rock comprising:

    a cartridge which forms an enclosure;

    a combustible propellant inside the enclosure; and

    at least one element which is electrically energizable, which is made from inert material exposed to the propellant, and which, when energized, initiates combustion of the propellant to release high pressure material inside the cartridge.

**Claim 18 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the element is made from a material selected from the group consisting of carbon, aluminum and nickel-chrome.

**Claim 19 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the element is made from graphite.

**Claim 20 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the cartridge is made from a malleable material and includes a cylindrical side wall, a base and a domed end opposite to the base.

**Claim 21 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 17, wherein electrical leads extend from terminals on an outer side of the cartridge to the element.

**Claim 22 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 21, wherein a removable closure covers the terminals.

**Claim 23 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the element is mounted on a substrate embedded in the propellant.

**Claim 24 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 23, wherein a control device is provided on the substrate for controlling operation of the element.

**Claim 25 (New)**      The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the element is in the form of an elongate filament.